

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE**  
**Department of Recreation and Parks**

**MIGHTY MITES YOUTH BASKETBALL**  
**GRADES 2-3 LEAGUE RULES**  
**2012-2013**

**I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Boys born 9/1/04 – 8/31/05 entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Girls born 9/1/04 – 8/31/05 entering 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Boys born 9/1/03 – 8/31/04 entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Girls born 9/1/03 – 8/31/04 entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**II. PLAYING RULES**

**B. Forfeiture of Games**

- 1. If one or both teams do not have at least five eligible players, a forfeiture is declared ten minutes after the scheduled game time.

**C. Length of Games**

- 1. Mighty-Mites: The length of game is 36 minutes-four 9 minutes quarters. The clock stops for free throws, charged team time-outs and official time-outs.
- 2. Playing Time: Each player must play a minimum of half the game. It is recommended that each player play 1 quarter in each half.

There will be two (2) minutes between each quarter and a four (4) minute halftime. (Games will start and end on time.)

**D. Overtime Periods**

- 1. Scores will not be kept. No overtime periods.

- E. Coach(es) Bench Decorum: The head coach or his designee will be permitted on the court during play for coaching and/or instructional purposes. However, coaches cannot interfere with the players or referee and should stay along the sidelines.

**F. Free-Throw Line**

- 1. Mighty Mites: The free-throw line shall have its farthest edge ten feet from the plane of the face of the backboard.

**G. Lane Violations**

Mighty-Mites: There will be a 5-second lane violation. **First violation is a warning; second violation will result in a change of possession.**

**H. Takeovers**

- 1. Offensive takeovers will occur during the first half of the first three games. Any offensive violations after the third scheduled game will result in a turnover.

I. **Full-Court Press**

1. Mighty-Mites: There will be NO full-court press during the backcourt “throw-ins” and the defensive team may not press until the offensive team crosses line designated past mid court and sets up near the key area. However, the offensive team must advance the ball past mid court within 15 seconds after the throw in. Backcourt violations **will not** be called.

2. Once a team has control of a rebound after a shot, the opponent **must** drop back beyond mid court behind the designated line before setting up in a defensive position. Again, no pressing will be allowed.

**Note: Defense can’t step or reach across designated line for the purpose of stealing the ball.**

J. Man-to-man defense is mandatory for the first half of the season (Jan. 5- Feb. 19 games). Man-to-man defense is optional for the second half of the season, but is highly recommended.

K. **Game Balls**

1. Mighty-Mites: Junior size 27.

L. **Basket Height**

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girl’s teams will be combined. These teams will use 8 ½ foot high baskets. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boy’s teams will use 8 ½ foot high baskets.
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boy’s teams will use 10’ foot high baskets (standard height).

M. **Time Outs**

1. Each team can use (2) time outs per half. (30 second timeout only)

N. Players shall be assigned officially on the roster of only one (1) team in the league.

O. The site supervisor will have the final say on any issues that may arise before, during and after all games.

**III. GENERAL LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION**

A. **Team roster and Fees**

1. Each coach must receive a department issued team roster including players’ names, addresses, telephone numbers, and birth dates.
2. Coaches should have all player *Agreement to Participate/Release forms* submitted to Recreation Department at time of shirt pick-up.
3. **Any team/individual not turning in above forms by the first game (January 5) will not be allowed to participate.**

B. **Financial Aid**

Financial assistance for the basketball program is available through the Rockville Recreation Fund. The scholarship will subsidize the resident fee for a youth participant with certain limitations. "Youth" is considered anyone 17 years old or younger, or anyone still a student in high school. **Also, must be a City of**

**Rockville resident.** A participant must pay \$15 towards the registration fee; the scholarship will cover the balance of the fee. The participant must apply for scholarships at the time of registration.

**Documents Needed for Financial Assistance:**

*Participants must provide verification of any of the following:*

Award letter from Maryland Dept. Of Human /Resources Montgomery Co. Dept. of Social Services verifying eligibility for Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Food Stamps, Medical Assistance and/or Transitional Emergency and Housing Assistance (TEMHA). The letter must indicate eligibility period and names of household members receiving benefits. (We do not accept Medicaid Card, FARM cards or Care for Kids).

Proof participant resides in a shelter; Letter from shelter dated within a month of application and, if applicable, listing dependents living at shelter.

Proof of Rental Assistant – Public Housing, HUD Section 8 Housing, HOC (MPDU not accepted for applicants purchasing a home). This must be a current document from the agency providing assistance which names the eligible tenants.

Supplemental Security Income – Document must be dated within one of application.

**C. UNIFORMS**

1. Players will be required to wear shirts furnished by the City of Rockville; also required are gym shorts or basketball pants. Players may not wear sweat pants while on the court but are encouraged to have them while on the bench. Shorts with pockets are discouraged, but not restricted. Jeans and bathing suits are not acceptable.
2. Players will not be allowed to wear jewelry of any kind during games. Taping of earrings, etc. is not acceptable.
3. Players are discouraged from wearing tights or undergarments that extend below the uniform shorts.
4. Logo/Trademark Size see **NFHS Rule 3 Sec 6.**

**SPECIAL NOTE:** As noted in B 1, the City will furnish, as part of the registration fee, basketball shirts to all teams. Sponsors are encouraged and given the opportunity to display their name on the back of the shirts; however, this added cost will be the responsibility of the team.

**D. TEAM PARENT MEETING**

Teams are strongly encouraged to have a minimum of one team/parents meeting during the season. It should be communicated that parents need to demonstrate the positive benefits of youth sports experience by attending games, practices, or team social events; or by taking the time to volunteer or assist in the various team role positions.

**E. SPONSORS**

Sponsors are strongly encouraged and will be accepted from service clubs, business establishments, citizen associations and qualified individuals. (No liquor dealers, beer establishments, or cigarette advertisers will be sponsors).

**F. INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

1. In case of inclement weather on the day of a game, we will attempt to place a pre-recorded message on the Sports Weather information line, 240-314-5055, concerning the status of play. All decisions will be made by 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays, and 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If

- there is inclement weather on the day of the practice and facilities are closed the weather line will be updated.
2. School closings on a Saturday do not necessarily affect school operations on Sunday. Listen for information on a daily basis.

#### **G. FACILITY RULES**

1. No smoking or drinking (includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages) is allowed in Montgomery County Public School facilities. Teams reported as violating this policy will be reprimanded and risk punitive measures. We must maintain good relations with the schools or we may lose the use of their facility.
2. Coaches, players, spectators, etc. are not to bring their personal basketballs to the game, as they will not be allowed in the gymnasium.

### **IV. RULES OF CONDUCT**

#### **A. PLAYER CONDUCT**

1. Players are expected to exhibit good conduct and sportsmanship before, during, and after games and practices. Unsportsmanlike fouls include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Disrespectfully addressing or contacting an official or gesturing in such a manner as to indicate resentment;
  - b. Using profanity;
  - c. Baiting an opponent or obstructing his vision by waving hands near his eyes;
  - d. Climbing on a teammate to secure greater height to handle the ball;
  - e. Knowingly attempting a free throw to which the player was not entitled.
2. A player who commits a flagrant foul as defined by Federation Basketball Rules is disqualified and, based on the reports of the Gym Director and game officials, may be suspended from the team's next league game, or for a period of time deemed fair by the league.
  - a. A flagrant foul may be personal or technical. It may be unsportsmanlike and may or may not be intentional. If personal, it involves violent or savage contact, such as striking with the fist or elbow, kicking, kneeing, running under a player who is in the air, or crouching or hiping in a manner which might cause severe injury to the opponent. If it is a non-contact foul, it involves extreme, some-times persistent, vulgar, and abusive conduct.
3. A player who has accumulated two (2) technical fouls as the result of actions prohibited by Federation Basketball Rules or these Bylaws will be disqualified from the game and banished from the vicinity of the bench. Depending on the severity of the actions which lead to the disqualification, and based on the reports of the Gym Director and game officials, the player may be suspended from the team's next league game, or for a period of time deemed fair by the league.

#### **B. COACHES' CONDUCT**

1. **It is the responsibility of the coach to control his own behavior and that of his assistant(s) and spectators. No coach or spectator shall enter onto the court without the referee's permission.**
2. Coaches are expected to exhibit good conduct and sportsman-ship before, during, and after games and practices. Unsportsmanlike fouls include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Disrespectfully addressing an official;
  - b. Attempting to influence an official's decision;
  - c. Using profanity;
  - d. Disrespectfully addressing or baiting an opponent;
  - e. Objecting to an official's decision by rising from the bench or using gestures;
  - f. Inciting undesirable crowd reactions.
3. A coach who commits a flagrant foul, as defined by the Federation Basketball Rules is disqualified and, based on the reports of the Gym Director and game officials may be

suspended from the team's next league game, or for a period of time deemed fair by the league.

a. A flagrant foul may be technical. It may be unsportsmanlike and may or may not be intentional. If it is a non-contact foul, it involves extreme, sometimes persistent, vulgar, abusive conduct.

4. The (3rd) third technical foul or the (2nd) second technical foul charged directly to the head coach or a single flagrant foul results in disqualification and ejection outside the building. If a coach is ejected from a league game, the coach will be suspended from the team's next league game or, if deemed necessary by the league, for a period of time.

#### **C. SPECTATOR CONDUCT**

1. **Parents or guardians of each participant are requested to read and sign a "parents' code of ethics" which has been developed and prepared by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association. Coaches will keep these forms with their team records.**
2. No person connected with a team in any capacity, including team followers (spectators) shall taunt, bait, insult or threaten an opponent or game official by language or gesture that is deemed profane, threatening, discriminatory or in bad taste. **PENALTY:** Warning to coach or coaches, by Gym Director. If repeated and/or flagrant, game will be stopped and offender(s) will forfeit game. Coaches are responsible for the conduct and actions of their team followers.

**NOTE:** At gyms where spectators are unchecked, resulting in the excessive abuse or assault upon officials, opponents, etc., the City of Rockville Recreation and Parks Department reserves the right to refuse service to those teams until definite assurances of the discontinuance of these practices are given by the team's coach or representative.

#### **D. EJECTIONS/SUSPENSIONS**

1. If a player or coach is disqualified a second time during the season, he shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, or longer if deemed fair by the league.
2. A player who does not serve his suspension shall be denied participation in the league for a period of not less than one year and his team shall forfeit all games in which he participated.
2. A coach who knowingly uses a suspended or ineligible player shall forfeit his coaching position, and the team shall forfeit all games in which the player participated.

#### **E. Players, Coaches & Spectators (conduct towards officials)**

Before, during or after a game, anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps or otherwise molests, harasses, or threatens an official shall be suspended for at least 1 year from the date of the incident.

#### **V. DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE ENVIRONMENT**

- A. The use of alcohol and illegal substances by coaches, parents (spectators), staff or game officials is prohibited at all youth basketball games and practices. The use of tobacco at any team function is strongly discouraged and use is prohibited in the gymnasium during games.
- B. Coaches and players in violation of the substance use prohibition will be subject as follows:
  1. 1st Offense: Coach and player or parent will be suspended for 2 games and all practices in between.
  2. 2nd Offense: Suspension of remainder of season.

**RELAX, BE COOL AND HAVE FUN.**